

# THE SUN SAYS

## Salute from the Poms

DOWN UNDER they are having the  
biggest and longest birthday party in  
history.

It is exactly 200 years since the first British fleet, with its mixed cargo of sheep stealers, pickpockets and naughty ladies, dropped anchor in Botany Bay.

However, there are skeletons at the feast.

“What is there to celebrate?” demand a thousand placards.

The Aussies are being asked to tear out their hearts over the plight of the poor old Abos.

They are asked to believe that, before the white man stole their land, Australia was a paradise inhabited by gentle, trusting, children of nature living on the fat of the land.

In fact, the Aboriginals were treacherous and brutal.

They had acquired none of the skills or the arts of civilisation.

They were nomads who in 40,000 years left no permanent settlements.

The history of mankind is made up of migrations. Australia no more belongs to them than England does to the Ancient Brits who painted themselves blue.

Left alone, the Abos would have wiped themselves out.

Certainly, they have suffered from the crimes (and the diseases) of the Europeans.

### Tamed

That is inevitable when there is a collision between peoples at different stages of development.

The Aussies tamed a continent.

They have built a race of tough, bloody-minded individualists.

We have had our differences—over politics and more serious things like cricket—but when the chips were down they have always proved true friends.

Not bad at all for a bunch of ex-cons!

We hope that they enjoy their  
long, long shindig and crack a few  
tubes for the Poms.